

## BECKER DIES IN ELECTRIC CHAIR

**Reasserts Innocence of Connection With Rosenthal Murder**  
**CARRIES A CRUCIFIX**  
**Picture of Former Lieutenant's Wife Found Pinned in His Bosom—Says He Was "Sacrificed"**

Ossining, N. Y., July 30.—At peace with his Maker, a prayer on his lips but with never a faltering of his iron will, former Police Lieutenant Charles Becker expiated the murder of Gambler Herman Rosenthal at 5:51 a. m. today.

Pinned on his prison shirt, above his heart, the former czar of the tenderloin carried with him in death the picture of his devoted wife. In his hand he clutched a crucifix.

The death current cut off in his throat the whisper, "Jesus, have mercy." Just before he entered the death chamber Becker declared to Father Curry:

"I am not guilty, by deed, conspiracy, or in any other way, of the death of Herman Rosenthal. I am sacrificed for my friends."

Previously the former police lieutenant at 4 a. m. had issued "my dying statement." It was a passionate reiteration of innocence—and it left as his only legacy to his wife his declaration: "I declare to the world that I am proud to have been the husband of the purest, noblest woman that ever lived, Helen Becker."

Becker walked unassisted from his cell to the death chamber. As he entered he glanced about, seemingly surprised. His face had the expression of a person coming from darkness into sudden light. But there was no hint of hesitancy to meet death in the stride with which he approached the chair which had already claimed the lives of four others in repayment for the murder of Herman Rosenthal.

Becker's nerve was unshaken even as the guards stepped forward and adjusted the electrodes. The former police official glanced about the little room, noting, perhaps, those who had assembled to witness the taking of a life for a life. Then he leaned forward to help the guard tighten the straps across the electrodes, through which in a moment would come the searing current of death.

Priests intoned prayer. Becker's lips moved constantly in reiteration of the words: "Jesus, have mercy." These were his last words.

When all was made ready, the executioner stepped back, and in full view of the witnesses, calmly shut the switch.

As the great current of electricity shot into the frame of the former master of gunmen, the big body straightened out, tugging at the creaking straps. For a full minute it stretched thus.

A slight sizzling was heard, and a slight curl of smoke went up from the right side of Becker's head, rising from under the cap just over the ear.

When the shock was at its height Becker's grip on the crucifix tightened but as the electrocutioner snapped the switch off, the cross slipped from the relaxed fingers. A guard caught it. The whole body dropped to a position of utter collapse. Becker's shirt was then ripped open by the physicians. As the black cloth was turned back to make way for the stethoscope, the photograph of Becker's faithful wife was revealed. It was pinned inside.

After a third shock had been administered Becker was declared dead. Poughkeepsie, N. Y., July 30.—Gov. Whitman last night denied Becker's last appeal. He stood firm as Mrs. Becker tearfully begged for mercy and the life of her husband.

"I know my husband is no saint, but he is not a murderer," Mrs. Becker told the governor.

For half an hour the governor listened to the pleading of the brave and

loyal wife of the doomed man. The governor went from his own rooms to the quaint old parlor of the Nelson House. There, in the dim light of an early evening, he found her huddled in a chair by the window. With the governor were his military secretary Major J. Stanley Moore, and John B. Johnstone, one of Becker's counsel.

"Mrs. Becker, I am willing to listen to anything you have to say," the governor told her as he entered the room. "If there is anything at all new you wish to tell me in this case you may do so with perfect freedom and with the assurance that the confidence will be respected."

"No, there is nothing new, nothing that I can tell you except that I know my husband is not a murderer. Won't you save him and give us a chance? Time will prove that he is not guilty," Mrs. Becker pleaded.

Mrs. Becker spoke in a low tone. She was crying softly when the governor came into the room and though she made a brave effort to control herself she broke many times in that half hour of pleading.

The governor walked up and down the little room with his hands behind his back.

"I am sorry I cannot help you, but I must do my duty," was all that the governor said after his first statement to Mrs. Becker.

The light of day had gone with the little woman's hope as the governor at last ended the interview with this final statement.

"It is hard to tell you so, but I can do nothing. I am sorry for you and I am sorry for your husband, but I must do my duty."

The governor left the room abruptly followed by his secretary and Mr. Johnstone. They left the woman alone by the window and at that instant a salvation army band opened its service just across the street.

Mrs. Becker fell forward in her chair. There was a broken sob or two and then with remarkable self-mastery she straightened up and sat crying softly until the time came to go to the train, which was to take her to the man who was waiting in the death house at Sing Sing.

Gov. Whitman denied that he had ever said that Becker offered to plead guilty to murder in the second degree.

## WOMEN ATTACKED.

**Vicious Negro Causes Excitement at Falls Church.**

Mrs. M. S. Hopkins, an artist about 60 years old, who lives alone in a large house on Washington street, Falls Church, was attacked in front of her home about 9 o'clock Wednesday night by a negro, who had robbery as his apparent motive. Mrs. Hopkins was thrown to the ground and her clothing partly torn from her body, but she was not seriously injured. In the struggle her pocketbook, containing a considerable sum of money, was thrown into a clump of bushes, where it was found later with the contents intact.

Frightened away by the screams of Mrs. Hopkins, the negro ran across lots to Great Falls street, where he met and halted two girls and demanded money. The girls screamed and ran, and the negro disappeared.

A posse of thirty or forty men was organized and within ten minutes the negro was overtaken on his way to the trolley station and placed under arrest. The prisoner, about twenty years old, gave his name as Belmar Holland and said he lived in Washington. When searched 4 cents and an empty whisky bottle were found in his pockets.

Holland had been seen about the village in the early evening in an intoxicated condition.

## STATE OFFICIAL ACCUSED

**Charges Ask for Impeachment of Alabama Secretary of State**

Montgomery, Ala., July 30.—Speaker A. H. Carmichael, of the House of Representatives of the Alabama Legislature, announced yesterday that he was in receipt of official charges filed against Secretary of State John Purifoy, asking for the impeachment of the official. Mr. Carmichael will put the charges before the House at Friday's session.

The papers are signed by B. G. Brown, of Birmingham, former automobile license clerk, and charge that Purifoy paid to J. H. Nunnally, who was at that time Purifoy's opponent in the race for Secretary of State \$1,000 to withdraw.

## FORCE RUSSIANS TO LEAVE WARSAW

**Strategy of Grand Duke Makes German Victory Only Partial**  
**CZAR'S ARMY ESCAPES**  
**Muscovites Conclude to Retire Behind Defenses Until Forces Are Properly Equipped**

London, July 30.—Germany's victory at Warsaw will be but a partial one. The strategy of the grand duke has foiled the Kaiser's attempt to cut off the escape of the powerful Russian army and bring to a decisive end the campaign in Poland.

Unofficial reports from Petrograd and news dispatches today indicate that the evacuation of Poland's capital has already begun and that the desperate fighting raging along the defenses of the city are rear-guard actions to cover the retreat.

Immense stores of munitions and provisions are being removed and the main body of the Russians is said to be falling back along the two rail way lines that are still open.

The evacuation of the whole Polish salient by the Russians is indicated in dispatches from Petrograd. The decision came as a surprise to all outside the inner councils of the Russian general staff, as the splendid resistance which the Russians have been offering, apparently with considerable success, to the German efforts to encircle the city were believed to be evidence of Grand Duke Nicholas' intention to fight it out with Germany.

It is said by the Russian military critics, however, after conversation with "competent military authorities" that until the army is properly equipped to oppose the perfect Austrian German machine the sensible thing to do would be to avoid battle and withdraw until the armies are organized and equipped and in a condition to take an aggressive offensive and drive the enemy from Russian soil.

Politics rather than strategy, decided the Russians to advance into East Prussia and Galicia, it is explained by the critics, and while in doing so they rendered great service to the western allies and inflicted terrible losses on both Austrian and German they now may give up all and more than they gained.

## KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

**Woman's Employer Stunned When County House is Struck.**

Chestertown, Md., July 30.—The home of Bedford Titter, at Cliff City, 10 miles from Chestertown, was struck by lightning Wednesday night and Mrs. Bessie Long, the housekeeper, killed. Mrs. Titter was badly stunned.

Mr. Titter was knocked down by the same flash that killed Mrs. Long. He did not lose consciousness. Mrs. Long's clothing was set on fire, but Mr. Titter put out the blaze with a blanket.

Mrs. Long was 32 years old. She removed to Cliff City December 14, 1914, from Baltimore. She leaves a son, 9 years old.

## LAX MORALS PREVAIL.

**Investigation of Conditions on Excursion Steamers Concluded**

Chicago, July 30.—Lax morals and gambling prevail on excursion boats plying out of Chicago, according to a report of an investigation by the Juvenile Protective Association presented to Ira B. Mansfield and William Nicholas, Federal inspectors of steamships and made public yesterday.

"License is synonymous with liberty on most of the excursion steamers plying out of Chicago, and the moral atmosphere is of the free and easy kind," the report says. "Conventions are cast to the wind. Excesses are permitted. The whole influence of the life board during week-end and holiday trips, so far as it bears on the young, is demoralizing."

## FUNERAL IN PRISON CHAPEL.

**Inmates of Federal Penitentiary Honor Former Chaplain.**

Atlanta, Ga., July 30.—The funeral of Dr. Tullius C. Tupper, for fifteen years chaplain at the Federal Prison here, was held at the prison chapel today. As soon as the prisoners learned that Dr. Tupper had died suddenly in Nashville on Tuesday, they requested that the funeral be at the penitentiary, so they could attend.

This was the first time services of the kind have ever been held there for a prison official or attaché. Bishop C. K. Nelson and Father James Hickey officiated, and the prisoners attended in a body.

Dr. Tupper was one of the best loved men ever connected with the United States penitentiary, and prominent in affairs of Atlanta's church life. He was a confederate veteran, a Shriner, a Knight Templar, and for four years was rector of St. Philip's cathedral here.

Dr. Tupper had just finished an address before the Nashville Rotary Club when he was stricken with apoplexy.

He is survived by his wife and ten children, one of them being Mrs. Robert S. Barrett, of Alexandria. Dr. Tupper was for several years rector of Episcopal Churches in Little Rock, Ark., and Leavenworth, Kansas. He was appointed as chaplain of the federal prison by President McKinley fifteen years ago, and served through the Spanish-American war as chaplain of an Ohio regiment.

## HURLED FROM A BRIDGE.

**Helpless on River Bank, Constable Narrowly Escapes Death.**

South Bethlehem, Pa., July 30.—Constable Clinton Wehr, of Rittersville, was the victim of a murderous assault, committed supposedly by a gang of Bethlehem Steel Company workmen, on their way home from the night shift early yesterday morning.

Half a dozen of the unidentified men bodily picked up Wehr on the New street bridge and pitched him over the railing, and he narrowly escaped landing in the Lehigh river 30 feet below.

When he struck the bank of the stream three ribs were crushed in and his right hip probably fractured. For nearly three hours he lay in pain, despite the fact that he managed to discharge his revolver six times to attract attention. Finally Frank Randall, of Philadelphia, happened that way, and hearing moans, investigated.

Wehr, with six detectives of the Lehigh Valley Transit Company, had been sent to this place late Wednesday night by the trolley company to go to Allentown on the early morning car, which carries many out-of-town workmen from the steel works. These men have been in the habit lately of raising "rough house" on the car, and the trolley company's aim was to break up the practice. After reaching here from Allentown Wehr separated from his fellow-officers of the law, and it was while he was crossing the bridge to join them that he was assaulted.

## WAR ON THE GREEN.

**Heavy fines Will be Imposed upon Belgians for Wearing National Colors**

In the hope of making Belgians love the Germans, the latter in Ghent are "staffing" the inhabitants more than ever. Because the people wore the national colors on Belgium's national day, the following proclamation by the German governor has been posted on the walls of the town:

"The way in which part of the people behaved on July 21, and the exaggerated way in which they wore Belgian colors, compels me to issue the following order: I forbid from today wearing, showing, buying and selling of Belgian colors, portraits or pictures of the royal family, green leaves with or without inscriptions, or any other display of color combinations which indicate political inclinations. I forbid all Belgians to wear the insignia of any order or decoration. For any of these offenses a maximum fine of 5,000 marks (\$1,250), or a maximum term of five years' imprisonment, or both, will be inflicted. My order must be posted on the walls and will come into operation immediately."

## HOLDS NEW TAX LAW INVALID

**Judge Scott Grants Permanent Injunction to Armour Company**  
**STATE WILL APPEAL**  
**Packers Allege Section as to Merchants' Licenses is Unjust to Non-Resident Manufacturers.**

Richmond, July 30.—Holding that section 45 of the new Virginia tax law is unconstitutional, Judge R. Carter Scott yesterday handed down an opinion in the case of Armour and Co. against the Commonwealth. A permanent injunction is awarded, restraining Auditor C. Lee Moore and commissioners of the revenue in ten cities and towns in which Armour and Co. have branches from requiring the concern to report as purchasers, as a basis for its merchants' license tax, the value of products, manufactured at its own plants outside the State and offered for sale within Virginia. The main point in Judge Scott's decision is that section 45 contravenes the interstate commerce provision of the Federal Constitution.

Sitting in the Circuit Court of Richmond in May Judge Scott granted a temporary injunction on the application of Armour and Co., and later extended the restraining order indefinitely, pending arguments of counsel. The complainants were represented by Eppa Hunton, Jr., of Richmond, and W. T. Hall of Roanoke. Assistant Attorney-General Christopher B. Garnett appeared for the Commonwealth. The case is regarded as one of the most important, and stands out as the first successful attack on the new tax system, adopted by the General Assembly at the extraordinary session last winter.

Mr. Garnett said last night that the Commonwealth would take the case to the Supreme Court of Appeals. In view of the fact that Judge Scott holds that the statute conflicts with the Federal Constitution, the case may finally go to the Supreme Court of the United States unless the General Assembly at its session next year should remedy the defect pointed out by the court.

Auditor Moore last night called attention to the attitude of the National Biscuit Company, of New York, in contradistinction to that of Armour and Co. The biscuit company readily agreed to comply with the law requiring local merchants' licenses for its several depots in Virginia and sent representatives of its legal department to Richmond for the purpose of ascertaining the requirements of the new statute.

The auditor expressed the belief that not nearly all of the foreign corporations, which occupy a similar position to that of Armour's would take advantage of the injunction, but that many would follow the course pursued by the National Biscuit Company. Mr. Moore was not able to make an estimate of the loss of revenue which will result from the court's decision. Armour and Co. has given no figures on which its merchants' license tax might be based, but he was of the opinion that the loss would be three or four times as much as the concern now pays in taxes to the State and several localities where there are agencies.

In its bill of complaint, Armour & Co. attacked section 45 as a discriminatory provision against foreign manufacturers. It was set forth that the company operates numerous packing and manufacturing plants in Western and Eastern cities, and that the business in which it is engaged is "peculiarly a manufacturing business." Under the section complained of the several branches and distributing houses of the company in Virginia were required to include as purchases, for the purpose of ascertaining a basis for the merchants' license tax, all goods and wares manufactured by the company outside the State.

The section, the company charged,

operated to "tax its own products in order to dispose of their products in Virginia, which is not imposed on resident manufacturers." "Section 47 of the tax laws, it was asserted, expressly exempted Virginia manufacturers from the payment of a merchants license tax for the disposal of its own products.

The Commonwealth contention was that there is no discrimination between nonresidents and domestic manufacturers. It was asserted that the resident manufacturers are permitted to dispose of their products only at the place of manufacture without the payment of a merchants' license tax, and that if these domestic concerns maintain branches, such as are operated by Armour and Co., they are subject to the provisions of the law the same as nonresident manufacturers. It was contended that this very provision prevents a discrimination in favor of the nonresident manufacturer. The manufacturer, whose plant is in the State, also pays a tax on the capital invested.

The injunction applies to Auditor C. Lee Moore, under whose orders the attempt was made to enforce the section to which objection was taken, and to the following commissioners of the revenue in cities and towns where the company maintains distributing offices: Joseph B. Anderson, Danville; D. R. Hunt, Roanoke; W. H. Sneed, Lynchburg; Charles H. Callahan, Alexandria; D. W. Fowler, Charlottesville; Henry E. Tresnon, Richmond; R. L. Cosby, Newport News; E. J. Doran, Norfolk; F. A. Heatwole, Harrisonburg; and W. H. Fletcher, Norfolk.

## WANTS GENERAL ATTACK.

**Russia Thinks It Time for Allies to Abandon "Nibbling" 'em.**

London, July 20.—All the newspapers here this morning give great prominence to an official statement from Petrograd that Russia awaits a Franco-British diversion, which is interpreted as an intimation from the great eastern power that it is time to abandon the Joffre policy of "nibbling 'em" and deliver a general attack on the western front in order to force Germany to reduce her forces estimated at 2,000,000, apart from the Austrians, facing the Russians in the eastern theater of war.

It is also believed to be an intimation that Russia hopes for a great battle at the Dardanelles, which will smash the "Turks" and allow munitions and provisions to reach her so Grand Duke Nicholas' armies, which have been hearing the brunt of the titanic struggle, may resume the offensive and crumple up the Germanic allies in the east.

## GIRL DIES FROM SHOT.

**Wounded By Her Boy Playmate Last Fourth of July**

Baltimore, July 30.—Maggie Byers, 12 years old, of East Baltimore, died yesterday afternoon at Johns Hopkins Hospital as the result of a shot fired by James Kleinschmidt, 11 years old. The shooting occurred July 5 on Wild Cherry Shore, Coigate Creek, where the two children were visiting with relatives.

The girl's story was that she was combing the hair of her older sister Kate Byers, when young Kleinschmidt began teasing her. She slapped him several times and asked him to stop. Finally, she said, she gave him a push and a few moments later the boy snatched up a cat-and-rat rifle and, placing it against the girl's cheek, he pressed the trigger. The ball penetrated the cheek and passed through the back of the jaw into the head.

## KILLED HIS DAUGHTER

**New Yorker Convicted of Throwing Children Down Airshaft**

New York July 30.—Hyman Liebman, charged with having killed his 7 year old daughter by throwing her down an air shaft, was found guilty of murder in the first degree yesterday by a jury in General Sessions.

Liebman on March 17, during the absence of his wife, who the night previous had him served with a summons charging nonsupport, dropped his two children, Sadie, aged 7 years and Samuel, 5 years old, down an air shaft to the basement, a distance of 60 feet. The girl died of her injuries and the boy will be a cripple for life. Liebman fled and was arrested in Philadelphia while awaiting trial here he attempted suicide.

## WOMEN CALL ON THE GOVERNOR

**Asks His Views Concerning Condition of Western Suffragists**  
**MAKES NO STATEMENT**  
**Executive Tells Committee He Was Unable to See That Suffrage Elated or Dissatisfied Them.**

Richmond, July 30.—A committee from the Congressional Union—the new suffrage association which is working for a Federal amendment—called on Governor Stuart yesterday to find out what his impressions were concerning the effect of woman suffrage in California. The committee had no difficulty in obtaining an interview with the Governor, having previously assured his secretary, Alexander Forward, that it had not come to heckle the chief executive, or even to ask him his personal opinions on the suffrage question.

Mrs. Percy Reed, the spokesman, stated the reason for coming, and added: "We want to know what the Western women are like and if the vote has changed them because they are interested in our getting the vote through a Federal amendment and are helping us with the votes they already have. Of course, though, we do not expect you to compare Western women and Virginia women, because we know you are too loyal to the latter."

"The most that I could get," said the Governor, "as the result of repeated inquiries, was that perhaps there had been no material change in conditions, though it is true that I was told by one of the men that one unworthy candidate in Los Angeles had been defeated for the City Council by the women's vote. The California people seem to be not at all dissatisfied with woman suffrage nor were they elated."

In reply to a question from one of the suffragists as to whether he had heard mentioned any desire to take back the vote from the women, he said: "No, not at all." The Governor said that, in his opinion, the Western women were "very handsome, able and"—with a satisfied smile—"very attractive." He was particularly impressed with the ability of one of the San Francisco women who was a member of the City Council.

He agreed with one of the committee members that it was hard to hold up against California women the fact that they had not voted the State dry, in view of the fact that winemaking is one of the principal industries of California.

The Governor was very courteous and cordial, as usual, and the suffragists very much pleased with their reception. In the party were Miss Edith Hansche, from Washington, and Mrs. Roy K. Flanagan, Mrs. Percy Reed, Mrs. Hill Urquhart and Mrs. F. L. Landrum, of this city.

## CHOKES ON EVIDENCE.

**Stolen Diamond Ring Reappears Suddenly From Interior Region**

Atlantic City, July 30.—Waiter Johnson complained to the police yesterday that he had lost a diamond ring at his boarding place. Detective Captain Whalen hurried to the hotel. Suspicion rested on George and Edwin Griffith, who were the other boarders on the same floor. The detective questioned them. Suddenly George swooned. He appeared to be choking to death. The sleuth and Johnson worked over him. He soon came back after vomiting and the ring rolled out of his mouth. He had swallowed the evidence.

"Wadeyuh think you are, an ostrich?" asked Captain Whalen as he hustled the brothers off to headquarters.

## Come to Miss Annie Hurdles.

King Street, and see a fine line of Corsets from 50 cents to \$2.00. Glad to show goods.